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The Study Of “Landscape” Concept with an Emphasis on the Views of Authorities of Various Disciplines

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Abstract

The term ‘Landscape’ with complex objective and subjective concepts and extensive physical and non-physical aspects, has always been of special interest to authorities and theoreticians in the intellectual fields related to the Ecology, Geography, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture and other related disciplines and fields. Additionally, sometimes provided definitions have simply directed the concept of ‘Landscape’ toward an environmental issue, which has been taken into consideration from an ecological perspective. As a result, different definitions and approaches have been raised for the issue of ‘Landscape’. In this respect, sometimes there have been attempts to define the term ‘Landscape’ by looking at scholars’ and experts’ perspectives from other countries (beside Iran) , or sometimes by typically considering their own perception of the term ‘Landscape’ as a definition. Moreover, the relationship between man and the environment and the interaction between these two elements in the discussions of Landscape experts and scholars, have created complex relations in the existing definitions of ‘Landscape’. Thus, sometimes the concept of ‘Landscape’ is regarded as an objective fact, which is apart from the man and his mind, and sometimes it is considered as an absolute abstract subjective reality. The objective and subjective complexity aspects of ‘Landscape’ have led the scientific disciplines, developed and grown in the Descartes’ bipolar world, to restraint ‘Landscape’ to merely one-dimensional concept and consider it as an abstract concept in its objective or subjective forms. Furthermore, stated definitions have always been the best indicator and criteria for evaluating the experts’ perspectives of the issue and their approach types. Therefore, by collecting and classifying library documents including inside-and-outside- country provided definitions of the concept of ‘Landscape’ in different areas and disciplines and also by qualitative analysis of inferential and analytical methods, this study attempts to examine the concept of ‘Landscape’ and understand the approaches to deal with it.

Keywords

Landscape, Theorists, Subjective, Objective.

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Research Questions

- How the authorities of fields related to “landscape”, have defined it and from what viewpoint they consider it?
- What similarities and differences could be found in landscape definitions in various disciplines?

Research Hypothesis

The relationship of humans and the environment has always been the preoccupation of landscape experts and any one of them has considered it by a different approach. Thus, there is no single definition of the word in various fields and there are basic differences in definitions. It is assumed that by examining definitions and views of Iranian and foreign authorities as well as classifying their differing approaches, subjective inclinations can be found in them; these are influenced by guild achievements of groups of experts and each have provided part of landscape definition as its definition with regard to their own functional and functional field.

Research Method

This study has been conducted by a qualitative method, which is a combination of analytic-descriptive and citation methods. Therefore, using library method and valid written and internet valid resources, a wide range of the resources related to landscape definitions was studied, and through comparative study, the examples and definitions provided in this regard were analyzed from an inferential and analytic point of view.

Introduction

Given the nascent nature of landscape science in academic and professional arenas, various and wide-ranging theoretical definitions have been provided by designers and theoreticians of the fields related to landscape. In many cases, based on educational areas and existing approaches in this regard, different viewpoints and definitions extracted from educational disciplines and professional areas could be seen. Thus, to identify the correct definition of landscape

and its fields in order to take further steps seems necessary. In the other hand, to know definitions of landscape and its cognitive aspects may identify the view of experts and theoreticians in this field and the way they pay attention to this subject. Given the concept and functional range of landscape and the landscape architecture being nascent in Iran and in the world in functional and academic areas, a wide range of experts and authorities of various fields related to landscape such as geography, ecology, urban planning, architecture, landscape architecture, and even sociologists have defined the term and redefined its dimensions. The examination of these definitions and redefinitions can help in discovering the hidden aspects of the term and the views about this subject.

Fields Related to Landscape

Iranians have always considered subjective and perceptual aspects of landscape along with its objective form. Apart from the definitions provided in dictionaries and through a comprehensive analysis of the views and sayings of landscape experts, effective and influential traces of many disciplines such as geography, ecology design, architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, green space and gardening design, amendment and even sociology and literature can be found in landscape field.

With a glance on temporal and historical aspects of discussions it becomes evident that since the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, the majority of definitions have been offered by geography theoreticians and then ecology designers. Expressions such as landscape ecology as one of the most-used expressions of the field with a view to objective and quantitative aspects of landscape are the result of this period and school of thought, though subjective approaches can be found in some of their theories. When the expression “landscape architecture” entered the field, other definitions and derived words were also provided by landscape architectures, designers, theoreticians, and related associations.

Given the historical and documentary record of the word in Iran, landscape has entered academic polemics as a word imported from the west. Therefore, given the short life of landscape, landscape architects, ecology designers, urban planners, and other related disciplines have tried to introduce and define landscape with regard to the similarities in functional and academic fields.

The Type of Approach to Landscape

The vastness of the meanings of landscape as well as the complexity of its concepts with regard to the interaction of humans and the environment, have led to the fact that experts have different approaches regarding landscape subject. Classifying phenomena into objective (physical) and subjective (metaphysic) groups developed by René Descartes in 17th century in a reaction to Aristotelian extreme subjectivism of the church, classifies phenomena in a dual structure into the issues related to mind and those apart from that. It is a bipolar structure that, when confronted with a definition of landscape, has no option but to segregate and separate its qualitative and quantitative forms and looks at landscape from subjective or objective perspectives. It is for the same reason that bipolar bias and segregation is seen in many definitions of the term. Recent philosophers such as Hegel and Heidegger, has disturbed the bipolar classification of phenomena into subjective or objective. They introduced existentialism and phenomenology and with expressions like “as”, etc. dual classifications like “in itself” and “for itself” changes into expressions like “in itself and for itself”. It is here that the bipolar and segregated view to define landscape and place is substituted by an intermediate approach influenced by the conflict of the object and the mind. This approach that is the result of the interaction between human mind and environment and cannot be dismantled from these two.

Therefore, many authorities have followed the above approaches to offer a definition of landscape. Some have searched landscape in historical discussions and

some others have attempted to discover its aspects. Therefore, researchers such as Ervin H. Zube, Linehan J.R, and Gross M expanded environmental meanings of landscape using the expression “landscape ecology”. They consider landscape as a set of biology conditions and ecology trend that could not be understood in a definite view and differ from earth shape (Daniel, 2001: 269). As a result, they put landscape with an objective view beside concepts such as ecosystem and environment. Also in recent years, some scholars such as Simon Bell insist on aesthetic criteria such as sublimity and grandeur and have emphasized on determining landscape subjective qualities using Whitehead views. Thus, authorities have looked at landscape issue across the world with differing and sometimes contradictory approaches. In what follows, some definitions offered by authorities of related fields will be offered to examine the views of experts distinguished by expertise in four categories of “objective approach”, “subjective approach”, “objective-subjective approach”, and “holistic approach”.

Objective Approach

Quantity-oriented and physical perspective toward landscape or the objective approach is an approach in which landscape is considered irrespective of human and human mind and as an independent object. It somehow identifies landscape with concepts such as ambient, environment, and land scene; therefore, the view toward landscape is sometimes thoroughly physical and sometimes totally conceptual in which landscape has a dictionary meaning and means an outlook to watch.

• Geographers

Some geography theoreticians such as Carl Troll (Troll, 1971), Ernst Neef, Richard Forman, Michel Godron and later Ervin H. Zube, Linehan, Gross, and others by introducing “landscape ecology”, disregarded subjective and meaning aspects of this expression and defined landscape as the relationship between a number of ecosystems or, in other words,

a bigger ecosystem. In these definitions, physical and external object is known as and considered as landscape. Ricahrd Dorman by writing "Land Mosaics: The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions" and "Landscape Ecology" in cooperation with Michel Gordon have had a large role in developing such a thinking. And Frank B. Golley published "Landscape Ecology" magazine in cooperation with International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) (Barrett, Barrett & Wu, 2015: 12).

• Ecologists

A large part of ecologists' theories has been derived from theories of great scholars such as Rachel Louise Carson (1962) and Aldo Leopold (1942). These were American ecologists and geographers committed to environmental aspects of landscape. They believed that whatever we do to preserve the integrity of natural environment and biological species is right. Carson wrote a book entitled "Silent Spring" and Leopold introduces a theory named "The Land Ethic" and tries to amend the relationship between human being as user and nature as used. Thus, Leopold considers human as part of a bigger society that includes natural elements such as soil, water, plants, and animals. Thus, he establishes the concept of environmental and ecological conscience and changes the role of a strong man confronting the environment into part of it who is modest in front of his society. As a result, human being respects the environment and its physical existence with an objective approach. Some scholars like Steiner (Steiner, 2002, 2011), Jianguo Wu (Wu, 2008), and (Hersperger, 1994) have followed this approach and have circulated ecology discussions in landscape area and theories such as landscape ecology and landscape design. People such as Monica Turner and Robert Gardner furnished its executive grounds through writing Quantitative Methods in Landscape Ecology. In a book authored by Carl Robert and Jianguo Wu called History of Landscape Ecology in United States, a complete list of activities related to landscape ecology and its theoreticians

(most of which geographers) has been provided and names such as Robert V. O'Neil, Wolfgang Huber, and Zev Naveh have been referred to.

Among Iranian experts, Kambiz Bahram Soltani in a book called "Basics of Green Urban Architecture" has not directly defined landscape but considers ecological structure of the region, understanding environmental quality, understanding social environment, and improving environmental quality as necessary to do research in this area. Moreover, he deems system stability, increased ecological power, and improved environmental quality to be influential in promoting natural scenes. Thus, an emphasis on environmental issues can be observed in these topics.

Upon the examination of the ideas and opinions of another part of environmental designers, conceptual aspects are seen more clearly in the views of people such as Homa Irani Behbahani and Mohammadreza Masnavi. They do not restrict landscape to aesthetic forms and believe that its complexity is due to the complexity of its ecological layers. Masnavi considers the environment as a concept and landscape as the visual and physical aspect of environment in the realm of our sense. The same thing can be found in a book authored by Mohammadreza Bamanian and Ferial Ahmadi entitled "design and Landscape Ecology".

• Urban Planners

In the area of urban planning, the term landscape is usually recognized by expressions such as urban landscape and city image. Thus, sometimes authorities through distinguishing these expressions following Kevin Lynch, put special emphasis on visual aspects. Kamran Zekavat in a paper entitled "Strategic Framework of Managing Visual Aspects of Cities" and in Landscape Structure section, considers "view" as the equivalent of "landscape", and develops expressions such as "wide view", "city image view", "interior view and linear view; thus, he specifically believes that landscape is consistent with organizing visual perceptions of the city.

Differentiating landscape and image is more evident

in Jahanshah Pakzad views. In a paper called “City Image; What Kewin Lynch Understood”, by relying on the opinions of Rapaport (1990), Lynch (1960), and Kurt Lewin, consider image as the equivalent of a subjective image that is the result of an interaction between environment and place. As a result, landscape is objective and considering image and landscape as synonymous words will have no consequences other than paying attention to physical issues of the city and its setting. In all instances, objective and subject-oriented approach dominates landscape definition and even guild aspects can be found in it.

• Landscape Architects

Given the introduction of landscape architecture expression in late 19th century, traces of environmental approaches can be found in the opinions of some of the early landscape architects. Just like ecologist theorists, they consider landscape synonymous with environment and biological environment. They have focused their attention on environmental process and quantitative approaches to landscape.

Among the prominent figures are Ian L. Mc Harg and John Ormsbee Simonds. Simonds deems landscape the manifestation of changing processes in nature and the expression of every moment of this change. Some of these processes are ecological and some others cultural, but both have been influential in landscape change. Moreover, he believes that geological processes, natural landscape form and its natural patterns, hydrology, wind, and other natural factors are determining factors of landscape (Taghvaei, 2012: 104). cHargrelies on Environmental Ethic theory and believes that landscape is an ecological system based on environmental factors such as geology, animal life, and land usage (Mc Harg, 2010: 29). He recommends the move from humanism to environmentalism with a completely quantitative view in the relationship between human being and nature. In addition, Mohsen Khorasani Zadeh, as an architect, considers landscape as the exterior space of any place in the field of view.

Subjective Approach

Subjective view toward landscape is another nascent approach that is otherwise an important topic in the fields of sociology and traceable psychology. In these definitions, landscape is regarded as a subjective and poetic manifestation in the mind of the beholder and seeks landscape in the thought and mind of the viewer.

If we examine the website of “Anthropology and Culture” and look at “Poetics of the City”, authored by Pierre Sansot and translated and summarized by Naser Fakouhi et al, we can find a poetic view toward urban landscape and seeking landscape in the mind of the beholder.

Subjective-objective Approach

In this approach, experts refer to some subjective and objective properties and aspects; they see them as two different approaches and sometimes interpret the word landscape using names such as place.

• Environment Designers

In the introduction of the translation of “Landscape: Pattern Perception and Process” authored by Bell Simon, Behnaz Aminzadeh (the translator) states that in landscape three interconnected truths or three interrelated aspects, i.e. visual, perceptual, and empirical aspects, as form (visual), meaning (perceptual), and function (biological and ecological processes and human experience) exhibit a manifestation of unity in plurality when interacting with each other. In a paper titled “The Assessment of Beauty and Place Identity”, she deals with objective and subjective variables of landscape in the mind of viewers and refers to resistance, beauty, and identity values in landscape in a book entitled “Values in Urban Landscape Planning”.

• Urban Planners

The presence of human being and subjective and memorable effects of landscape have been explained by Farah Habib and especially Kourosh Golkar. Habib in a paper titled “Investigating the Meaning

of City Shape” segregates landscape from subjective image. She writes in a paper called “Planning Urban Landscape throughout History” that an urban landscape that can have a clear image of itself, can have a social role as well; the reason is that it can help people realize where they are and thus read the environment and can plan their activities in a more appropriate way and can even increase cumulative memories and group communications (Habib, 2006: 48). Golkar examines the relationship between urban environment and human being and concludes that urban landscape is a “system” that is constituted of “objective urban landscape”, “subjective urban landscape”, and “subjective-evaluative urban landscape” (Golkar, 2008: 98).

“Objective-subjective Approach”, the Approach of Beholders

In their primary definitions of landscape, geographers refer to two impartible aspects of subjective and objective. This kind of view can be found among landscape theorists, beholders, and especially European Landscape Convention. This approach has a comprehensive view toward landscape and considers it a matter that relies on physical and functional topics in environment area as well as subjective and cognitive affairs and perceptual process. It is evident that combining these two matters is possible in the eyes and mind of humans; therefore, subjective and objective aspects cannot be segregated and landscape is known as an objective-subjective matter.

• Geographers

In a book entitled “The Beholding Eye: Ten Versions of the Same Scene”, Donald William Meinig states, “any landscape is composed not only of what lies before our eyes but what lies within our heads” (Matlalek, 2007: 38). Yi-Fu Tuan does not believe landscape to be the sum of its parts, but says that parts constitute the whole. Like a picture, landscape is a structure composed of mind and sense (Tuan, 1979: 90). In this regard, he holds a personal, ethical, and aesthetic view toward landscape. Denis E. Cosgrove believes that one can look at landscape from two

viewpoints: ecological approach and encrypted aspect (Mansoori & Habiby, 2010: 67). Finally, Augustin Berque considers as landscape a place having biological, ontological, and rational assumptions; in other words, the reason of the existence of a place is not necessarily its presence, but is created in relation to subject and specifically animates (Berque, 2013: 25). In the other hand, landscape is neither a simple objectivity nor a mere subjective manifestation. Using the expression “as” that Heidegger introduces in metaphysics subjects, he exhibits his environment as a landscape. In this regard, landscape is neither merely subjective nor merely objective. This shows that he is about to reunify what was divided into objectivity and subjectivity by modern dualism.

• Foreign Landscape Architects

Bernard Lassus, the winner of IFLA award, and his colleagues in Lavite University, Paris, including Yves Juginbühl, Yann Nussaume, and especially Augustin Berque, emphasized the inseparable and continuous nature of objective and subjective aspects of landscape. In this respect, landscape is a visual theory related to place and periphery environment and is a permanent game between apparent and hidden and truth and fantasy. These definitions are also considered as the foundations of the definition offered by the European Union about landscape.

Pierre Donadieu considers landscape as a common good for animates that, in one hand, includes geographical environment and land and, in the other hand, consists of human groups residing in that place. In fact, landscape is a place whose residents deliberate (perceive) in it and regard it as a habitat (Donadieu, 2013: 36).

Some landscape architects have talked about the interaction of humans and nature and their mutual relationship and have added an aesthetic approach to landscape subject. Simon Bell can be considered the most prominent representative of this view who has dealt with quantitative and qualitative aspects of landscape. Through a deep view toward landscape concepts, he creates a kind of relationship between

three important aspects of visual, perceptual, and biological and ecological properties of human experience. He examines natural patterns and concludes that landscape is the part of environment in which we reside and perceive it by our sensation (Bell, 2003: 91).

The Tom Turner and Simon Swaffield are among those who look at objective and subjective dimensions of landscape separately and comprehensively. From Turner's point of view, landscape science focuses of seeking knowledge about good places, and landscape management is the art of managing those places that improve it. He has believes that cities can be called landscapes. In his book, he concludes that the most basic element of a city is the things we perceive and our perceptions of a city is what is known as landscape (Mansouri, 2010: 32). He defines landscape in three separate fields: "given the history of grammar science, it is logical to use landscape in the meaning of 'a special view toward the world'". From physical point of view, landscape is determined by the geographical position of individuals; in psychological aspect, landscape is defined as mental structures through which sensory information is interpreted" (Atashinbar, 2009: 48). Moreover, Simon Swaffield believes that not only landscape indicates a tangible phenomenon and a visible product, but also is a subjective matter or an idea striking the mind. He distinguishes between objective landscape, subjective landscape, and holistic landscape and defines it in five areas of mind landscape, object landscape, imagination landscape, body landscape, and hand landscape.

In addition, John L. Motloch and Anne Whiston Sprin in their books, "Introduction to Landscape Design" and "Landscape Language", have emphasized the bond between people and place and have referred to the perceptual and mysterious background of landscape.

• Iranian Landscape Architects

Among Iranian landscape architects, architects such as Mehdi Shakibae, Seyed Hassan Taghvaei, and Mohsen Feyzi, have referred to constituting elements

of landscape and its dimensions. They have also considered quantitative and qualitative aspects of landscape. Mohsen Feyzi writes that experts have offered a variety of definitions and approaches about the term landscape, but all of these definitions are relatively common in certain properties such as flexibility, objectivity, and an emphasis on natural elements of earth (Feyzi, 2010: 14). In a joint paper with Mehdi Khak Zand entitled "Landscape Architecture Design Process, Past and Present", he offers a diagram of the general approaches to landscape and points out three human, natural (animate), and physical (inanimate) aspects of landscape (Feyzi, 2008: 68). Sheibani does not define urban landscape only as the tangible and sensory layer of a city, but considers it to have sensory, cultural, and ecological aspects (Sheibani, 2010: 4). In a book titled "Landscape Architecture", Seyed Hassan Taghvaei discusses landscape concepts extensively. He refers to landscape concept and defines it as a relationship between natural and cultural patterns, constituent processes, and humans' perception of the beauty of this complex (Taghvaei, 2012: 22). Moreover, he believes that landscape is a set of perceptual manifestations, cultural and philosophical arenas, and a context incorporating various kinds of shapes, patterns, wildlife species, and many natural creatures. He also puts the constituent elements of landscape in the following table (Taghvaei, 2004: 65).

Seyed Amir Mansouri also defines landscape as having place identity and the result of human experience in space. Landscape is the macro-space of human life in environment and is not created spontaneously. Human being, despite all his mental complexities, has a to and fro relationship with nature and environment; he receives from them and penetrates into them (Mansouri, 2010: 31). Therefore, landscape is not only known as a subjective element composed of natural parts, but is a subjective and cultural element the formation of which in people mind has been concomitant with history, religious and mythical beliefs, climate, living tradition, and

the like (Mansouri, 2004: 72); (Table 1).

• Associations of Observers

European Landscape Association gave an unprecedented position to social values in the meaning of landscape. This convention believes that landscape is perceived by societies; thus, these societies must be related to decision-making flows to participate in building their future and environment (Mebol, 2013: 40). This complex considers landscape an area that people perceive and is a structure resulted from the interaction of human indices and natural interplays (Sevenant & Antrop, 2009). Therefore, landscape is defined as a territory or region that is perceived by the people and visitors whose personality traits is the result of cultural and natural factors. The same thing means recognizing the fact that landscapes evolve with the lapse of time and due to human and natural activities; thus, landscape should be regarded as a totality constituting all natural and cultural components together, not separately.

In the other hand, Landscape Architecture Association of United States, International Federation of Landscape Architects, and Asian Cultural Landscape Association through offering definitions of landscape architecture consider it the science of designing environment that is in harmony with environmental

rules and try to prevent human-induced damages to the environment and consequently destroying it. An integrated relationship between objective and subjective dimensions of landscape can be derived from these definitions pointing to human culturization throughout history and his impact on landscape as well as environmental approaches and a comprehensive view toward physical and functional aspects of landscape.

Sum Up

By reviewing the above words, we can understand the concern of theorists and observe the variety of opinions and approaches of experts and their different deductions from landscape definition. Some have considered landscape with a quantitative and objective approach and have sought its definition in the realm of science and in sciences such as ecology, geology, geography, etc. In this approach, landscape is usually regarded as the equivalent of environment. Thus, at best humans are responsible against the environment and protected it against environmental damages when they respect it. The deductions from landscape based on a specific guild or discipline and defining it with regard to a field of specialization have influenced the understanding of landscape and providing a guild-induced definition. Though this issue has not developed enough in subjectivity-oriented area, but is as evident as objectivity-oriented area. In this part, theorists seek landscape in the mind of the observer and attribute poetic states to it. What the prominent Persian poets and literary writers have pointed out about landscape has been a beautiful definition of landscape that is like a beautiful fantasy and a correct interpretation of the subject; but this interpretation is incomplete without the subject and remains only a word.

Others point out quantitative and qualitative dimensions in their definitions and examine landscape separately. Thus, human being lives in an environment with environmental properties and understands it. In this approach, all environmental properties are examined and aesthetics and perception

Table 1. Constituting elements of landscape. Source: Taghvaei, 2004: 65.

Constituting elements of landscape		
Elements of the human-built environment	Natural elements of the environment	Environment of human activities
open spaces	climate	human behaviors and activities
closed spaces	land bed- water-vegetation	individual and social territories
	Animal life and ecology	Place and land usage

enters the realm of landscape, but in both cases, the emphasis is on “Object”. This type of view deals with effective social and economic indices more strongly. Finally, the holistic or observers’ approach that is considered as a standard definition has moved beyond this and regards the relationship between human being and landscape as complex and impartible. In this case, landscape is considered as a whole, with the meaning that landscape has physical reality and meaning in the same time and has subjectivity and objectivity simultaneously and these two are inseparable; in other words, landscape is an objective-subjective phenomenon and is situated in science-art realm. In this approach, the aesthetic emphasis is on the “mind” and interprets landscape according to observer’s mind as well as temporal and spatial indices. In tables 2 and 3, the opinions of a number of the experts of this field and the types of their views toward landscape have been summarized. What can be seen with the first glance in the above table is the type of views of foreign theorists that can be classified, so that foreign environmental designers

and geographers have dealt with landscape definition with a quantitative view. They mostly emphasize ecology and recognizing its dimensions. Therefore, expressions such as landscape ecology and land image that are introduced by them, mostly focus on systematic relationships between phenomena and a set of ecosystems.

Landscape architects and international scientific circles gradually replaced one-dimensional view toward landscape with quantitative, qualitative, and finally holistic approaches and have placed more attention on objective and subjective aspects in latest definitions. According to them, the humans’ understanding of landscape depends on space physics and his experience of space and, unlike Cartesian bipolar theory, they are impartible and inseparable. Landscape has a fluid, flowing, and non-fixed nature and its nature is composed of “space and human understanding of space”. However, sometimes they have to separate these two abstractly for convenience and operationalizing executive decisions. This while Iranian theorists there is fewer integrity and

Table 2. Views of foreign authorities based on expertise. Source: authors.

	year	Theorist	Concerned criteria	approach
Foreign Theorists Geographers	1975	Ailton	Objective aesthetics	objective
	1979	Yi-Fu Tuan	ecology- Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	holistic
	1979	Meining D. W	- Objective aesthetics Subjective aesthetics	objective Subjective -
	1947	Carl Troll	ecology	objective
	1967	Ernst Neef	ecology	objective
	1987	Richard Forman	ecology	objective
	1987	Michel Gordon	ecology	objective
	1987	Ervin H. Zube	ecology	objective
	1998	Ian L. Mc Harg	ecology	objective
	1994	Augustin Berque	- ecology Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	holistic
	2013	Yves Luginbuhl	- ecology Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	holistic
	1997	Denis E. Cosgrove	- ecology Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	holistic

Geologists	1949	Aldo Leopold	ecology - Objective aesthetics	objective
	1962	Rachel Louise Carson	ecology	objective
	2002	Fredrick Steiner	ecology	objective
	2008	Jiangue Wu	ecology	objective
	1991	Monica Turner	ecology	objective
	1991	Robert Gardner	ecology	objective
	1994	Hersperger Anna	ecology	objective
Urban planners	1960	Kevin Andrew Lynch	Subjective aesthetics	objective
	1998	Jack L. Nesser	Subjective aesthetics	objective
	1998	Coplans	Subjective aesthetics	objective
Sociologists		Pierre Sansot	Subjective aesthetics	objective
Landscape architects	1969	Ian L. Mc Harg	ecology	objective
	1983	John Ormsbee Simonds	ecology	objective
	1996	Tom Turner	ecology - Objective aesthetics	holistic
	1990	John L. Motloch	ecology - Objective aesthetics	holistic
	1998	Anne Whiston Sprin	- Objective aesthetics Subjective aesthetics	holistic
	1999	Simon Bell	ecology - Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	holistic
	2005	Simon Swaffield	- Objective aesthetics Subjective aesthetics	holistic
	2001	Bernard Lassus	ecology - Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	holistic
	2011	Yann Mussaume	ecology - Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	holistic
	2014	Pierre Donadieu	ecology - Subjective aesthetics	holistic
Landscape associations	2004	Landscape Architecture Association Of United States	ecology - Objective aesthetics	holistic
	2004	The International Federation Of Landscape Architects	ecology - Objective aesthetics	holistic
	1997	European Landscape Convention	ecology - Subjective aesthetics	Landscape is a totality
	2015	Asian Cultural Landscape Association	ecology - Objective aesthetics	holistic

continuity of theories. They have defined landscape based on guild inclinations and according to their own views and tastes.

A large group of urban planners have focused on subjective perceptual and aesthetic qualities by considering equivalent terms such as subjective image, image, etc. as well as separating human being from subject. However, there is no definite classification among other groups and there is

dispersion of votes and opinions as well as different guild and even individual viewpoints. Despite all of these differences, landscape architects have paid more attention to the quantitative and qualitative aspects of landscape compared to environment designers. Though we cannot sum up environment designers' view in a definite manner, ecological sense is more manifest in their definitions compared to other aspects of landscape.

Table 3. Views of Iranian authorities based on expertise. Source: authors.

Iranian Theorists	Environment designers	1384	Kambiz Bahrami Soltani	ecology	objective
		1392	Mohammadreza Masnavi	Objective aesthetics	objective
			Homa Irani Behbahani	ecology - Objective aesthetics	objective Subjective -
		1394	Kianoush Souzanchi	ecology - Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	- objective Subjective
		1394	Behnaz Amin Zadeh	ecology - Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	- objective Subjective
	Urban planners	1385	Kamran Zekavat	Objective aesthetics	objective
		1385	Jahanshah Pakzad	Objective aesthetics	objective
			Mostafa Behzadfar	Objective aesthetics	objective
		1385	Farah Habib	- Objective aesthetics Subjective aesthetics	objective - Subjective
		1382	Kourosh Golkar	ecology - Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	- objective Subjective
		1390	Hassanali Leqae	ecology - Objective aesthetics	objective
		1388	Sina Razaqee Asl	Objective aesthetics Subjective aesthetics-	objective Subjective -
	Sociologists	1394	Naser Fakuhee	Subjective aesthetics	Subjective
	Landscape architects	1382	Mohsen Khorasani Zadeh	Objective aesthetics	objective
		1393	Mojtaba Ansari	ecology - Objective aesthetics	objective Subjective -
		1383	Hassan Taghvaei	ecology - Subjective aesthetics	objective - Subjective
		1387	Mohsen Feyzee	ecology - Objective aesthetics	objective - Subjective
		1389	Seyed Amir Mansouri	ecology - Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	holistic
		1388	Mohammad Atashinbar	ecology - Objective aesthetics - Subjective aesthetics	holistic
		1387	Mehdi Khak Zand	ecology - Objective aesthetics	objective Subjective -

Conclusion

Given the above sum up, we can say that landscape in definitions has always relied on two main elements, the elimination of any of them results in an incomplete understanding of landscape. The first one is the environment that encompasses human being and the second is the human being who enters it in order to understand it and create a bond between them and creates images in his mind with the lapse of time. Thus, knowing this fact seems necessary that landscape is an alive and dynamic existence that, in one hand is influenced by human being and his relationship with the environment and, in the other hand, represents memories occurred in long periods in that environment, have influenced the relationship of humans and the environment, and have consequently changed human culture and civilization. In one hand, we cannot summarize landscape merely as physical existence because it encompasses quality and meaning too and, in the other, we cannot regard it as an abstract concept for we understand it through physical existence and senses. Thus, in an exalted deduction landscape is a phenomenon that is achieved through our simultaneous understanding of the environment and an interpretation of mind; in fact, landscape is an objective- subjective phenomenon that is sometimes separated into objective and subjective aspects in order to study it more easily.

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